



Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Project Frequently Asked Questions



What does Seattle Public Utilities, as owner of property at 10032, 10034, 10036, and 10038 Rainier Ave S, plan to do with the area?

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) plan to turn the area into a passive open space/natural area. In the future, the houses on the property, pavement, docks and other structures will be removed. Additionally, there will be habitat improvements to the stream, the surrounding streamside area, and the lake shoreline. At this time, there are only conceptual ideas for the area. Project designs will likely be developed in 2014 and 2015.

Currently the property is not open to the public. Several homes on the property are occupied and access is restricted to those residents.

When would changes occur?

We expect that the environmental improvements to the area will occur during 2015 and 2016.

What other work does the City plan to do in the area?

SPU needs to replace the Taylor Creek culvert under Rainier Ave S and restore fish passage in the creek so that fish can swim from Lake Washington upstream into Lakeridge Park. The project area will likely extend from the shoreline of Lake Washington up through SPU property at 10020 68th Ave S. It could extend further upstream as well.

Will this project include changes to the stream delta?

Yes. We hope to improve the stream delta habitat for salmon. Although delta growth occurs naturally from stream sediment transport, we plan to assess how project designs could reduce the ongoing effects of natural sedimentation on neighboring property owners. We will work with sediment transport experts for this element of the project.

SPU recently acquired 10042 Rainier Ave S. What do you plan to do with this property?

SPU has completed a lot boundary adjustment and received approval to sell the adjusted parcel with the home. We plan to list the property in early 2013 and hopefully sell soon thereafter.

Why is Washington State Department of Transportation involved?

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is a partner with SPU and Parks for the environmental improvements planned for the area downstream of Rainier Ave S. WSDOT will be replacing the State Route 520 floating bridge. That project will impact habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon, as well as other fish and wildlife in Lake Washington. They are required to mitigate their habitat impacts and have chosen lower Taylor Creek as one of their potential mitigation sites. WSDOT has some conceptual ideas for the area that are included in their environmental permitting applications. These ideas will be refined and further developed, with input from the surrounding residents, during project design.

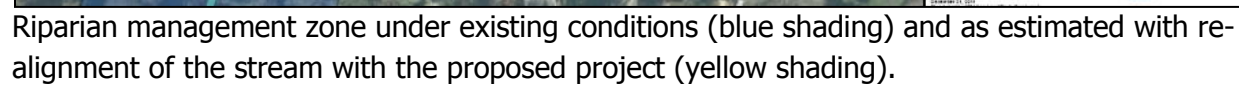
There are occasional sewer overflows on 68th Ave S. Will this be addressed during the project?

This sewer line is on a preventative maintenance schedule to clear debris and tree roots. The maintenance is scheduled to occur every 48 months. The last maintenance was in 2009 and roots and sand were found in the line – the line was jetted to clear that material and the pipe was inspected. The inspection found that the concrete pipe has a few deficiencies, but nothing that warrants repair at this time.

SPU will be looking at options to replace or repair the sewer line in conjunction with the stream project. The next maintenance is scheduled for 2013. In the meantime, if you witness the sewer surcharging, please call SPU's emergency line at (206) 386-1800 when it is occurring so that crews can come out.

Will the proposed project affect the riparian buffers in that area?

Yes. The changes to the stream will affect the riparian management zone as managed by the Environmentally Critical Areas ordinance. The riparian zone includes a 75 foot no-build restriction and a 25 foot limited build restriction beyond that, for a total area of 100 feet in the buffer. The map below shows the existing 100 foot riparian management zone and an estimate of how that zone may change with creek modifications. The estimate is our best approximation based on where the stream realignment could go – we will not know the exact changes and affects to adjacent properties until the designs are developed (2014 time frame). The map does not show the shoreline management zone which also exists for Lake Washington.



How can I be involved in the project planning?

SPU and Parks held a neighborhood meeting in August of 2011 and a public meeting in February of 2012. These meetings provided opportunities for SPU and Parks to hear about problems in the area and get feedback on the preliminary project ideas from area residents and stakeholders.

SPU and Parks are conducting an analysis of public access options during the first half of 2013. There will be several opportunities to provide your input on the kind of public access that ultimately exists at the site. Please see the project website for further information.

Additional public meetings will be held during project design and in the time leading up to construction. Those meetings will occur in 2014 and 2015 and are a good way to be involved.

I'd like to get project information or have questions/concerns – what should I do?

- Get on our email distribution list and get meeting notes, project updates, and other information. Sign up at a meeting or email Project Manager Julie Crittenden.
- Get information and provide feedback to SPU and Parks through contacting the Project Manager Julie Crittenden.
- Stay up to date by checking the project website. Meeting notes, presentations, graphics and other information will all be posted.

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